
THE FEEDLINE

Volume 48, Issue 4 The Voice of the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club April 2024

Moved and Seconded: Minutes of the March 2024 WIARC Meeting

The March 6th, 2024, meeting of WIARC was called to order at 7 pm by President W9US with the following members and guests present:

W9US, KB9FIN, KB9GIY, WB9EWM, KB9WDC, W9DP, KA9VIM, KD9VUW, K9VXD, NR9Q, W9WE, W9WEB, W6JFL, WA9GBC, KD0HDL, N9BZ, KD0DKE, KE0KCQ, AB9DU, NA9DM, KD9PPJ, WA0UHI, K9AJC.

Introductions made...

The minutes of the February meeting were approved WB9EWM / W9DP. A question was brought up about minutes being emailed to club members via the club IO. Discussion was conducted and motion made by WB9EWM to have the monthly minutes emailed to club members via the club IO email. 2nd by KD9VUW and approved by club members present.

Treasurers Report: Jack, KD9PPJ, stated that since taking over the position he still does not have access to all the accounts and needs an EIN number. Able to deposit checks but there are still things he cannot do. Looking into electronic payments into the account for paying dues online through the website, until he gets access to the accounts, he cannot do anything until then. Also, he stated that the app to pay electronically needs a physical address. The suggestion was made to use the PO box number and the physical address of the Post Office where the post office box is located. That will be investigated and reported on later.

Repeater Board: The new Yeasu repeater has been bought and already received. WB9EWM has it and is getting repeater set up and programmed, All paid bills have been sent to the Treasurer. The current 940 repeater is acting up so WB9EWM is going out to the site and turning off the 940 repeater until new repeater is set up at the new site. WB9EWM also stated that he had not gone out to the Canton site (KD0DKE) yet and is planning to do that here shortly.

Contest Committee: N9JF not present.

Membership Committee: N9JF not present.

Club Station: Has and is being used by some club members and discussion was made about adding fusion radios to the club shack, removing the Icom radio and getting something more up to date and current. WB9EWM also remarked about the DStar equipment being looked at by someone in Champaign, Illinois but have not heard anything from the interested party.

Old Business:

Hamfest report: W6JFL not enthusiastic about the response for volunteers for the Hamfest. Provided the list for the sub-committees. Trying to get members to sign up and get a commitment to work the Hamfest. Nothing has been assigned to anyone and only the testing has been covered by volunteer VE's. Copies of the Hamfest flyer provided along with the flyer for the Technician class being held in Hannibal. The dates for the Hamfest on May 4th, 2024, from 8am to 12 noon at the American Legion in Palmyra, Missouri. We are asking for volunteers for Friday night to set it up and for Saturday during the Hamfest and after to help clean up.

N9US made a motion to get 2 tables for the Hamfest, WB9EWM / KD9PPJ, approved by members present.

New Business: Kenny KE0KCQ brought flyer about the Palmyra, Mo Truck night. Spoke about being invited to it again this year. Truck Night is on May the 7th, a Tuesday, and they would like us set up NLT 5pm.

Joe, W6JFL brought up the Technician class being held in Hannibal March 16th, 23rd and 30th, 2024, from 9am to approximately 4pm each Saturday. Classes are being held at the Marion County Ambulance District Training Room, 142 Jaycee Dr, Hannibal, Mo 63401. Technician manuals are available for purchase from W6JFL. Boy Scout groups have been contacted and will be contacted once again about the class being presented.

NCS stations: Mar 13 - KD9VUW, Mar 20 - W9WE, Mar 27 - WB9EWM, Apr 3 - W9DP, Apr 10 - KD9PPJ, Apr 17 - WB9EWM, Apr 24 - W9DP, May 1 - W9WE

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm. WB9EWM / NR9Q, All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted by K9AJC.

Are you ready for the eclipse???

A total solar eclipse that will be seen across North America will occur on Monday, April 8th. It will be the last of its kind in the US for the next 20 years.



**The 2017 Great American Eclipse.
[Sierra Harrop, W5DX, photo.]**

Hams across North America are asked to participate in a study about how the ionosphere functions by getting on the air to help scientists in a series of ionospheric experiments.

Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) has presentations for hams interested in participating on Wednesday, March 27 at 8:00 PM (Eastern) - 5:00 PM (Pacific)*, and that same day at 10:00 PM (Eastern) - 7:00 PM (Pacific)*. Both 30-minute presentations

will held on Zoom and they will feature HamSCI's Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science (FoEIS). The presenters will take your questions during the presentations.

Here is the [link to the presentations](#).

The program will start by covering HamSCI's basis and purpose, and quickly move into why they are conducting experiments, how hams and shortwave listeners (SWLS) can participate, and what they hope to learn from the event. Along the way, they will discuss why the science behind the event is important to users of the high-frequency radio spectrum - including amateur radio operators!

Learn about the HamSCI's eclipse-focused operating events:

- [Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#) (SEQP)
- [Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge](#) (GSSC)
- [Medium Wave Recording Event](#)
- [Time Delay of Arrival \(TDOA\) Event](#)
- [Grape 1 Doppler Receiver Project](#)

.....And more eclipse....

Amateur Radio Operators Needed for Help with Solar Eclipse Project

The [Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU](#), the club station at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centered around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

W8EDU club member Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said the project centers around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere.

"To do this, we are recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU (Canada's WWV) for two weeks surrounding the eclipse," added Goodman. "Anyone with a [KiwiSDR](#) or a rig that can interface with analysis/recording software such as [Fldigi](#) is encouraged to reach out to us to participate."

W8EDU club member and project software manager Maris Usis, KE8TXG, said that while the software is simple to use, there is some detailed work involved. "We can help make it easier and there are good online instructions as well," said Usis.

All of the participation details are on the club's website at <https://w8edu.wordpress.com/chu-eclipse-data-collection/>.

W8EDU club faculty advisor David Kazdan, AD8Y, said the research project has received positive attention from the [ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program](#) community, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation ([HamSCI](#)) community, and Case Western Reserve University's engineering deans. "It is already a truly international effort, and we are collaborating with more than 20 stations across the continent, from collegiate and high school stations, to a representative from the Radio Amateurs of Canada, to a station in Mexico," said Kazdan.

The [2024 solar eclipse](#) will over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. ARRL is a partner with HamSCI to help promote this opportunity for radio amateurs to participate in an active science experiment, through the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

We lost a big name in audio and radio recently Here is more info from Bob Creswick NB4C. (Thanks, Bob!!)

THE REST OF THE STORY....

Many, if not all, of you are familiar with the name Bob Heil, and the Heil brand of microphones and headsets he has designed and manufactured for the amateur radio community over the last few decades.

Few, however, may be familiar with what got him started in the business. This may help you understand where his expertise originated.

Several years ago, on a trip to the Cleveland, Ohio, area, I had the opportunity to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in Cleveland. Some of you may wonder what Rock and Roll music has to do with amateur radio...and that's where the rest of the story begins. Some of you may have already had the opportunity to visit the Hall of Fame, and will have already seen and read of Bob Heil's background, but here is a nutshell history of what started it all.

Early in his career, Bob was a professional organist, in the St. Louis area, but at the same time was also an amateur radio enthusiast. In 1966, he opened Ye Old Music Shop, in his home town of Marissa, Illinois. From this, he developed a budding amplifier repair business, that grew into sales of amplifiers, guitars, keyboards and drums. His experience as a musician and a "ham" provided him with a grasp of the technology and its practical applications. The challenge of providing more dependable and reliable gear led him to developing his own products.

When the rock band Grateful Dead found themselves in St. Louis without a PA system, because the local police had impounded their equipment when their sound man was arrested, a stagehand friend call Heil, he took his newly developed mixing board and sound system to the show. The Grateful Dead were so impressed that they hired Heil on the spot, and took his system on the road. In 1971, Heil was called to Boston, when The Who's sound system proved to be inadequate. Heil became their sound specialist for the next several tours. Together with Peter Townsend, he developed a four-channel quadraphonic PA (Fig.1 and Fig. 2) that The Who used on their Quadrophenia Tour.

In 1980, Heil left the live sound business to concentrate on developing microphones for the ham radio business. In 2005, guitarist Joe Walsh, Heil's longtime friend and fellow ham, persuaded him to create a new vocal mike for The Eagles.

In 1967, Heil created a guitar effects pedal (Fig. 3) that would replicate the sounds of Jimi Hendrix.

In 1969, Heil and Tomlinson Holman modified a Langevin Mixing Console (Fig. 4), usually used in a studio setting, for touring purposes. In 1970, the Grateful Dead found themselves in need of a sounds system for a gig at the Fox Theater in St. Louis. This modified Langevin was brought in, and so impressed the band that they took it on tour with them.

In 1970, Heil designed the Sunn Coliseum Mixing Console (Fig. 5) with Doug McLeod, for Sunn Amplifiers. The Who used the board on the first leg of its Who's Next Tour, in 1971. In 1971, Heil and Joe Walsh (WB6ACU) became good friends when Heil toured with the James Gang, bonding over their common love of ham radio. On his solo recording of "Rocky Mountain Way", Walsh used a "Talking Actuator", that was developed by Pete Drake, a noted steel guitarist from Nashville. Wash asked Heil to develop a similar product that was compact, portable, and loud.

In 1973, Heil developed the HM-1000 Modular Mixing Console. This was designed for the average musician, and even a novice could easily operate the board and the various mixing channel boards could be easily changed by the user if they failed.

In 1974, Heil and Byron Recke designed and manufactured a fiberglass speaker (Fig. 6), to eliminate the vibrations and resonance inherent in wood-based cabinets, the item in white at the bottom of Fig. 6 photo.

In 1974, Heil Sound produced the Sound Mini Mixer (Fig. 7), a rack mounted auxiliary mixer that added six additional channels to the mixing console. Also in 1974, he developed the HXO Electronic Crossover, to overcome the problem of sending the proper sound frequency to the proper speaker cabinets. This electronically divided and distributed the sound without a loss of signal strength.

The Heil Sound Parametric Equalizer, another 1974 product, was developed. Previous graphic equalizers only allowed the sound man to adjust the levels of specific frequencies. The Parametric Equalizer allowed the frequency, bandwidth and level to be adjusted separately.

Again, in 1974, came the Heil Pro-Analyzer and Pink Noise Generator, used to tune and adjust the PA system to be tuned and adjusted for the individual room in which it was used.

In 1974 came the Pro200B Power Amplifier. Bob Heil and Don Hartwig, Elvis Presley's sound man, created the amp for the retail market, for use in churches, schools and recording studios.

Following that came the Heil-Crown OHMEGA Amplifier. This came out of frustration with existing, dependable amplifiers that he approached Clyde Moore, at Crown Amplifiers, to use his amplifiers for touring groups. Crown responded by licensing its products to Heil, who re-packaged and co-branded them for the touring business.

These are some of the many revelations that I came back with from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Amazing how the music industry and the amateur radio community are intertwined. Have you been told before (those of you who are morse-code literate) that music and the code are closely related in their timing characteristics...if you're good at one, you may be good at the other...and have a "good fist"?

When your friends give you a rough time for being a "geeky" ham radio operator, dump this information on them as to how it's connected to the history of Rock and Roll.

Bob Heil's background in music has certainly found an application in the ham radio world.

This story was developed using information gleaned from the placards that accompanied each piece of equipment on display at the Heil Exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

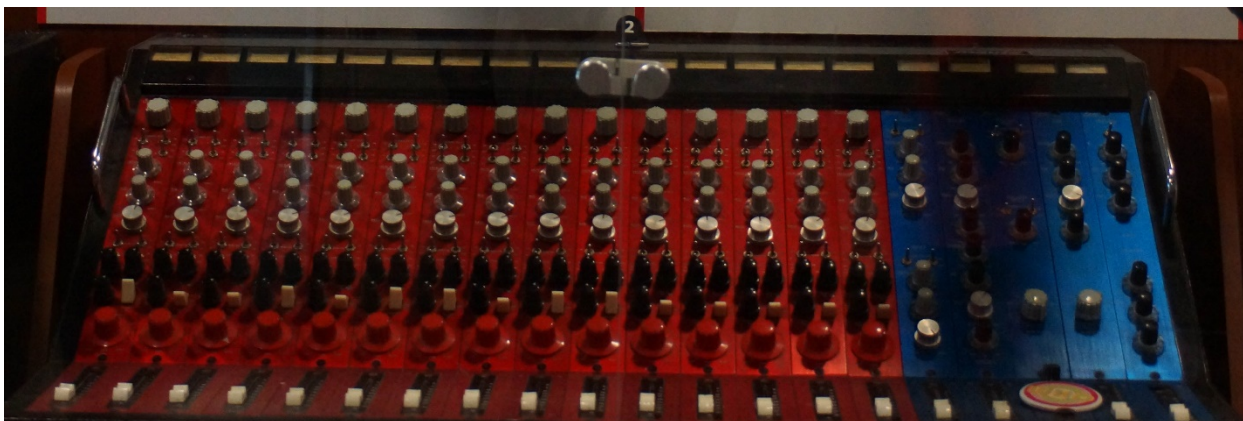


Fig. 1 Quadraphonic PA



Fig. 2 Quadraphonic PA

Fig. 3 Guitar Effects Pedal



Fig. 4 Langevin Mixing Console

Fig. 5 Sunn Coliseum Mixing Console



Fig. 6 Fiberglass Speaker/Cabinet

Fig. 7 Sound Mini Mixer



All of the information provided above came directly from the placards that were mounted with the equipment. All of the equipment was donated by Bob Heil to the Hall of Fame. All photos by NB4C.

DX News Shamelessly Stolen from ARRL DX News

**QST de W1AW DX Bulletin 12 ARLD012 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT March 21, 2024 To all radio amateurs**

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by G0TLE, The Daily DX, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND, CE0. Felipe, CE3SX is QRV as CB0ZIX until April 4. Activity is mainly on 6 meters, but also on the HF bands using SSB and FT8 in DXpedition mode. QSL via LoTW.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Bob, DU7ET is currently QRV as EX0ET. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using mostly CW. QSL direct to home call.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Jean-Luc, F1ULQ and Bert, FG8OJ will be QRV as TO1Q from March 25 to April 8. Activity is on the HF bands and 6 meters using SSB and various digital modes. QSL via F1ULQ.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. Haru, JA1XGI will be QRV as TX5XG from Raivavae, IOTA OC-114, from March 27 to April 3. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes being active on Satellite IO-117. QSL via LoTW.

ST. VINCENT, J8. Kevin, W1DED, will be active as J8NKI from Bequia Island, IOTA NA-025, from March 23 to April 1. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

DENMARK, OZ. Stefan, DL7AOS will be QRV as 5P5K from Romo Island, IOTA EU-125, from March 23 to May 6. Activity will be on 80 to 6 meters using SSB and various digital modes. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX contest. QSL to home call.

WESTERN SAHARA, S0. Station S01WS has been active on 10 meters using CW around 1730 to 1800z, and then later on 12 meters using SSB. QSL via Club Log.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4. Pete, G0TLE will be QRV as V4/G0TLE from St. Kitts, IOTA NA-104, from March 23 to April 6. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via LoTW.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Operators AF3K, KH6M and W2TT will be QRV as VQ5P from Turks Island, IOTA NA-003, from March 26 to April 2. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, FT8, and FT4. QSL via N2OO.

LAOS, XW. Vincent, XW4KV is QRV from Vang Vieng until June 1. Lately he has been active on 15 meters using FT8 around 1100z. QSL via F4BKV.

REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, Z6. Boris, S53BB is QRV as Z68BB from Pristina until April 1. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via EA5GL.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC. Adrian, G0KOM is QRV as ZC4MK from March 26 to April 1. Activity is on the HF bands. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest. QSL to home call.

Please see March QST, page 78, and the ARRL and WA7BNM contest websites for details. NNNN /EX

From *The ARRL Letter for March 21, 2024:*

Get Ready for the 2024 ARRL National Convention and Youth Rally

A full slate of programming has been committed for the 2024 ARRL National Convention, which will be hosted by Dayton Hamvention®, May 17 - 19, in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention is the largest annual gathering of radio amateurs in the world.

Coupled with the National Convention, this year promises to be a Hamvention not to miss. Building on a yearlong theme to "Be Radio Active," ARRL has planned exhibits, forums, panels, and activities that promise to engage and inspire attendees in a wide range of amateur radio interests.

Hamvention has committed one of its four forum rooms to a track of ARRL National Convention presentations with topics that span public service, technology, on-air activities, instruction, and youth outreach.

- In the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) forum, ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will discuss the role of SAFECOM in supporting the public safety community to improve the emergency communications ecosystem, as well as the importance of building mutually beneficial relationships with local emergency management officials.
- ARRL National Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, will lead an Instructor Academy, showing off many new training tools to help lead lively ham radio license classes.
- ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, will cover Youth Outreach through Amateur Radio STEM Education, covering ways to inspire students to pursue higher education and careers in technological fields.
- Enhancing Transmitter Performance will examine the ARRL Clean Signal Initiative, and presenters include ARRL Second Vice President Mike Ritz, W7VO; Rob Sherwood, NC0B, of Sherwood Engineering Inc., and ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.
- Kyle Krieg, AA0Z, will present, How to Control Your Ham Shack with A Node-RED Dashboard, offering a tutorial for this easy-to-learn flow-based programming language that ham radio operators can use to build simple web-based dashboards that provide command, control, and automation in their ham shack.
- ARRL First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, will examine the theory of ground, discussing dc grounds, RF grounds, and even talking about gravity, in her presentation, Ground is a Myth!

- **ARRL CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA, will delve into the world of Gaming the Amateur Radio Modes, offering tips and tricks covering station design, operating, instruction, and mastering the art of amateur radio modes, including FT8.**
- **Five Steps to a Successful POTA (Parks on the Air®) Activation will be presented by Michael Martens, KB9VBR, of KB9VBR Antennas on YouTube.**
- **ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, will moderate a panel on Good Operators and Interference that includes Lark Hadley, KA4A, Director, Region Three, FCC Enforcement Bureau; ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program Administrator Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, and ARRL Laboratory Manager George Spatta, W1GKS.**
- **ARRL Field Services Manager Mike Walters, W8ZY, will present, Tips for Successful Radio Clubs.**
- **ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, and Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, will provide an ARRL Contest Program Update.**
- **Explore the full scope of operating privileges and ham radio activities that can be done with a Technician - class license, in the forum Beyond Repeaters: See How Far Your Tech License Will Take You, presented by ARRL Laboratory Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, KD2ZWN.**

Additionally, an ARRL Membership Forum will be held on Saturday, May 18, covering several key areas of membership interest. The forum will be moderated by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Scott Yonally, N8SY, and panelists include ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR; First Vice President Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and CEO David A. Minster, NA2AA.

On Saturday, May 18, a 2024 ARRL Youth Rally will be a special feature of the National Convention at Hamvention. The Youth Rally is intended for students who are 11 to 21 years of age. While Hamvention offers free tickets for youth aged 12 through 18, advance registration for the Youth Rally is recommended. A preliminary Youth Rally agenda and registration instructions are on the ARRL website, at www.arrl.org/expo. The Youth Rally registration fee is \$20 and includes a tee shirt (to wear on Saturday), badge, lanyard, and reusable tote bag.

Youth Rally participants will enjoy a full day of activities, discovery, sharing, and fun. Rally day begins at 9:15 AM on Saturday with the annual Dayton Youth Forum -- open to all Hamvention attendees -- moderated by well-known amateur radio educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP. The forum includes presentations from young hams covering a variety of amateur radio activities, topics, and technology. After lunch (on your own) Youth Rally registrants will gather in Forum Room 3 to get know each other and to explore a variety of amateur radio interests and activities. Learn about satellite communications, participate in a short sprint contest, contact a parachute mobile station, and participate in other fun! Bring a 2-meter handheld radio if you have one.

The Youth Rally will wrap up on Saturday with a presentation from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program (CARP).

Learn more about the 2024 ARRL National Convention at www.arrl.org/expo, where you can find the full listing of ARRL-sponsored forums, exhibits, and activities.

Hamvention is held in Xenia, Ohio, on the sprawling grounds of the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Visit the event's website at www.hamvention.org, where you can also purchase tickets, find the complete list of Hamvention forums, and learn more about the event.

And.....

FCC to Require Two Factor Authentication for CORES Users

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced an upcoming change to the [Commission Registration System \(CORES\)](#) that licensees use to pay any application or regulatory fees, manage or reset a password on an existing FRN, or request a new FRN. Beginning March 29, 2024, multifactor authentication will be implemented. Users will be prompted to request a six-digit secondary verification code, which will be sent to the email address(es) associated with each username. The user will then need to enter the code into CORES before they can continue.

In a [public notice](#), the FCC said this change will make the system more secure. "This additional layer of security will further safeguard against unauthorized access, thereby enhancing the overall integrity of information contained within the CORES system and improving the security of user data," it read.

The FCC recommends that users confirm they have access to their username account email and to add a secondary email address, if need be.

Resources are available for those who need assistance with the system. For inquiries or assistance regarding the implementation of multifactor authentication on CORES, submit a help request at <https://www.fcc.gov/wtbhelp>, or call the FCC at 877-480-3201 (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

And.....

The third annual Lewis and Clark Trail on the Air will be active from June 1 - 16. This special event is an on-air activity that commemorates the historic [Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail](#), which covers 4,900 miles through 16 states, including the disembarkation from Camp Dubois and what is referred to as the [Eastern Legacy](#). The event is sponsored by the [Clark County Amateur Radio Club](#) (CCARC), W7AIA, with support and participation from various clubs in all 16 states along the historic trail. Each day of the event runs for 24 hours and the start time is 0000 UTC through 2400 UTC. Operating modes include SSB phone, FM phone, CW, and FT8. Any combination of modes toward working all 16 states is allowed. A schedule for planned operations for each participating state will be posted on the CCARC website. Certificates can be requested for two classes of participation: the Expedition Partner Certificate (awarded to any station working all 16 states) and the Trail Companion Certificate (awarded to any station working one or more states). Clubs interested in activating this event for one of

the 16 states of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail should send an email of interest to info@LCTOTA.org

The Missouri QSO party contest is 3 weeks away, April 6th and 7th.

Here are some links with more information.

MOQSO Party Home Page:

<https://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party>

MOQSO Party Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MissouriQSOParty>

For Missouri Hams:

The goal this year is to put every county on the air and we need your help! If you are new to contesting, this contest is for you! Dip your toe into the world of contesting with this great state QSO party. If you are interested in working both days and want to make a lot of QSO's, consider signing up for a 1x1 callsign for the weekend. See the rules below for the 1x1 callsign certificate awards.

MOQSO Party 1x1 Page:

https://w0ma.org/mo_qso_party/results/2024/reports/moqp1x1ses.html

1x1 Callsign Signup Page: <http://www.1x1callsigns.org/>

Thanks

Kyle

AA0Z

Grid-Chasing

What is a Maidenhead grid square?

- An instrument of the Maidenhead Locator System (named after the town outside London where it was first conceived by a meeting of European VHF managers in 1980), a grid square measures 1° latitude by 2° longitude and measures approximately 70 × 100 miles in the continental US.

Those of you who are active on VHF and UHF, especially “weak signal” modes, are probably familiar with the Maidenhead grid system. Many of you know the number of the grid in which you reside, as this information is occasionally requested during a contact or with a QSL request.

There are awards for working, and confirming, certain accumulated numbers of grids on most of the bands above 30 Mhz. Some also track the grids they have worked on the HF bands. I've never paid that much attention to my totals and have never applied for even the basic “VUCC Award” offered by (I think?) ARRL. Since my Log4OM program interfaces with Logbook of the World and displays (among other things) my grid totals on all bands, I got curious today as to just how many grids I'd worked and confirmed on various bands through LoTW. I was a bit surprised.....

On six meters, I have 245 grids confirmed. I guess I should apply for the award (for 100 grids)? All-told, on all bands, I have logged, and submitted to LoTW, contacts with 1247 grids, 1168 of which are confirmed. I don't even know how many total grids there are nor how many of them actually have people. There is nothing that keeps one from contacting ships at sea and getting the grid confirmed as far as I know, and I have no idea if any of those have slipped into my 'confirmed column'.

Some grids in the continental USA are notoriously difficult to work because they have almost no residents and/or access to them is difficult. The "toughies" are mostly in the wide-open spaces of the West or on coastal islands. Some dedicated VHF operators make "grid expeditions" to those, and they get a sizable following. There is a special award available for those who have confirmed EVERY USA grid. The Fred Fish Memorial Award was created in honor of Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), who was the first amateur to have worked and confirmed all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous states. One of our members, Jay, KA9CFD, is a holder of the Fred Fish Memorial Award.

The GridMaster award, sponsored by AMSAT, is also available to all amateurs worldwide who submit proof with written confirmation of contacts with each of the 488 maidenhead grids located within the contiguous United States of America. So far, 63 amateurs have qualified for the GridMaster award. The data for the Fred Fish Memorial Award is a bit more elusive, but I would assume it is similar.

Not surprisingly, my number of confirmed grids on digital modes is disproportionately high compared to the amount of time I spend there. Digital operators are really good about uploading to Logbook of the World! While my "Mixed" total of grids confirmed is 1168, my digital total is 961 compared to 746 on CW and 409 on phone. Since I don't spend very much time on six meters, my totals there are small compared to some of the HF bands. For some reason, Log4OM shows no grids confirmed on 160 meters; however, I have 81 countries confirmed on that band, so the grid total would be somewhat higher!

Updated POTA stats for WIARC as of March 21:

W9DP	7 activations of 7 parks	2509 parks worked
NU7J	147 activations of 100 parks	2320 parks worked
W9US	19 activations of 8 parks	694 parks worked
NR9Q	29 activations of 10 parks	675 parks worked
AA9GL		161 parks worked

KB9FIN	28 activations of 23 parks	1213 parks worked
KM9DX	105 activations of 68 parks	575 parks worked
WM4D	175 activations of 100 parks	498 parks worked
WM9DX	24 activations of 21 parks	80 parks worked
N9JF	623 activations of 347 parks	1109 parks worked
K9AJC	46 activations of 23 parks	2951 parks worked
KW9Q	26 activations of 14 parks	605 parks worked
KO0KER		5 parks worked
WG0ATS	5 activations of 2 parks	153 parks worked
W9MDB		188 parks worked
NI9M	26 activations of 9 parks	64 parks worked
KB0V		102 parks worked
KA0SNL		109 parks worked
KD9TTB	24 activations of 14 parks	239 parks worked
KE0MHJ	2 activations of 2 parks	118 parks worked
WB2UFO		66 parks worked
W9WE		74 parks worked
KD9VUW	68 activations of 27 parks	423 parks worked

Thought-provoking link from NB4C:

July 2020 IEEE.org article about Ham Radios' future.

[Article Link: Uncertain Future of Ham Radio](#)

I'll admit a good bit of this is beyond me, but it's worth the read and comment, especially as we consider membership and Elmering. – N9JF

Look what W9DP found!!

QUINCY, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.

900 VERMONT ST.

W9AWE



WESTERN ILLINOIS RADIO CLUB

"ADAMS COUNTY"

K8KTM

CONFIRMING OUR QSO May 27 1961

TIME: 2042 GMT M ST ON 2P MC SEP 6 PM

SSB.....

YOUR CW..... SIGNALS WERE: RST 57

XMTR: 813 275 WATTS

ANT: TA33 RCVR: HQ110

REMARKS: Thx QSO, OB
CUL

PLEASE ☐ QSL 73 AND THANKS 73 Bob K9YYR

AMATEUR RADIO: K8KTM

John Blazetovich

1316 26th ST, NE

Canton 4

OHIO

U.S. POSTAGE 3¢

LIBERTY

CHICAGO 34 ILL	W9YYF JACK L. SPENCER, 817 E. TAYLOR ST, PONTIAC	WIS
GREENFIELD 13 ILL	K9YYF DONALD G. SPARKS, 615 MANHATTAN RD, KOKOMO	ILL
ARD, CHICAGO IND	W9YYG NORMAN A. KECK JR, 1004 WESTERN AV, JOLIET	IND
LACE, HARVEY ILL	W9YYH FRANKLIN W. SHRACK, 1033 BARBERRY LN,	ILL
LAWRENCEVILLE ILL	K9YYH GEORGE S. MACKO, 1410 W. 51ST ST, CHICAGO	ILL
BARRINGTON ILL	W9YYJ ELGIN RADIO AMATEUR SERVICE CLUB,	IND
BERKELEY ILL	1408 HIGHLAND AV, ELGIN	ILL
BERWYN ILL	K9YYJ MAUNA L. WOODLIFF, RFD 1 - BOX 10, WAUTOMA	ILL
GREENFIELD ILL	K9YYK SAMUEL C. SOKOLIK, RFD 1, HOLMEN	WIS
E, CHICAGO 21 ILL	W9YYL CHARLES A. BRESSETTE, P O BOX 267, STURTEVANT	WIS
CICERO 50 ILL	K9YYL LOUIS C. TREML, P O BOX 16, LAONA	WIS
ST, SUPERIOR WIS	W9YYM JACOB M. BUZZARD, 123 TERRACE VIEW LN, PEORIA	ILL
GREENFIELD IND	K9YYM GERALD E. ZUHLKE, RFD 1, KENDALL	WIS
R, MADISON 5 WIS	K9YYN ROBERT C. MINSEK, 1124 FISCHER ST, WHEATON	ILL
CT. ENG. BLDG, 6	W9YYO CHARLES M. EINING, 32 WOODCREST LN, ELK GROVE	ILL
	K9YYO THOMAS E. WREN, 1 N. KILDARE, CHICAGO 24	ILL
	W9YYP LOUIS J. KONICEK, 2221 ERIE ST, RACINE	WIS
	K9YYP ROBERT C. THOMAS, ELECT. OFFICER SCHOOL, BLDG. 512, USNTC, GREAT LAKES	ILL
	K9YYQ MICHAEL LOGERFO, 914 BEALE ST, SOUTH BEND	IND
	W9YYR FRANKLIN J. BAECHER, 723 ORANGE, INDIANAPOLIS 3	IND
	K9YYR ROBERT C. MAKEK, 3621 BISCAYNE, QUINCY	ILL
	W9YYS STEVEN L. MAKOWSKI, 3708 N. LE CLAIRE AV, CHICAGO	ILL
	K9YYS WILLIAM H. PEASE, 5728 WALLINGWOOD DR, INDIANAPOLIS 26	IND
	W9YYT CHARLES B. PORTER, 1720 BELLAMY DR, CHAMPAIGN	ILL
	K9YYT ELMO R. CALDWELL, RFD 1, BOX 288-HH, MOLINE	ILL
	K9YYU VIRGIL D. MORROW, RFD 1, CORDRY LAKE, NINEVEH	IND
	W9YYV EDWARD V. ROGALLA, 630 E. 11TH ST, PERU	ILL
	K9YYV CHARLES A. BRESSETTE JR, 832 W. DAVENPORT ST, RHINELANDER	WIS
	W9YYW WALTER J. GLISH, 1221 N. 72ND ST, WAUWATOSA 13	WIS
	K9YYW DONALD B. REED, 307 N. 24TH ST, LA CROSSE	WIS
	W9YYX ERNEST L. NICHOLS, RFD 7, BLOOMINGTON	IND
	W9YYY CLARENCE O. WAHNER, 5431 W. COUNTY LINE RD, MT. WAUKEE 18	WI
		ILL

Notice the call immediately after K9YYR's! (Relative of yours, W9DP??)



**Western Il. Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 3132
Quincy, IL 62305-3132**



**April meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024
7 pm
Adams County American Red Cross
Building, 24th and Koch's Lane, Quincy
(west ½ block from intersection then
north on driveway)**

**W9AWE – W90AB
The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
WIARC homepage: <http://www.w9awe.org> e-mail to w9awe@qsl.net
WIARC email reflector: wiarc@mailman.qth.net**

**Sponsors of
Analog repeater W9AWE/R on 147.630/.030 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5
Analog repeater W9AWE/R on 146.340/.940 Tone Rx and Tx 123.0
Analog and Fusion repeater W9AWE/R on 448.900/443.900 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5
Analog and Fusion repeater W9AWE on 147.795/147.195 Tone Rx and Tx 103.5**

**All repeaters are located on the north side of Quincy IL
ILLINOIS QSO PARTY**

Newsletter input due by the 20th of the preceding month

Editor Jim Funk N9JF
n9jf@arrl.net